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Focus ON READING

Vocabulary

READING
COMPREHENSION

Holes

Louis Sachar

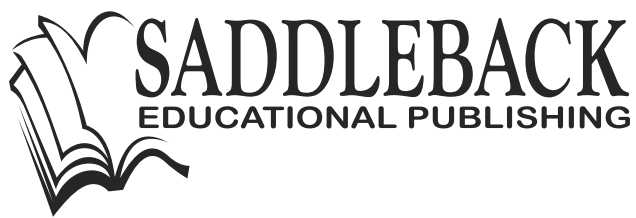
ACTIVATE PRIOR KNOWLEDGE

Reproducible Activities

Focus **ON READING**

Holes

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Introduction/Classroom Management

WELCOME TO *FOCUS ON READING*

Focus on Reading literature study guides are designed to help all students comprehend and analyze their reading. Many teachers have grappled with the question of how to make quality literature accessible to all students. Students who are already avid readers of quality literature are motivated to read and are familiar with prereading and reading strategies. However, struggling readers frequently lack basic reading skills and are not equipped with the prior knowledge and reading strategies to thoroughly engage in the classroom literature experience.

Focus on Reading is designed to make teachers' and students' lives easier! How? By providing materials that allow all students to take part in reading quality literature. Each *Focus on Reading* study guide contains activities that focus on vocabulary and comprehension skills that students need to get the most from their reading. In addition, each section within the guide contains a before-reading **Focus Your Reading** page containing tools to ensure success: **Vocabulary Words to Know**, **Things to Know**, and **Questions to Think About**. These study aids will help students who may not have the prior knowledge they need to truly comprehend the reading.

USING *FOCUS ON READING*

Focus on Reading is designed to make it easy for you to meet the individual needs of students who require additional reading skills support. Each *Focus on Reading* study guide contains teacher and student support materials, reproducible student activity sheets, an end-of-book test, and an answer key.

- **Focus on the Book**, a convenient reference page for the teacher, provides a brief overview of the entire book including a synopsis, information about the setting, author data, and historical background.
- **Focus Your Knowledge**, a reference page for students, is a whole-book, prereading activity designed to activate prior knowledge and immerse students in the topic.

The study guide divides the novel into 6 manageable sections to make it easy to plan classroom time. Five activities are devoted to each section of the novel.

Before Reading

- **Focus Your Reading** consists of 3 prereading sections:

Vocabulary Words to Know lists and defines 10 vocabulary words students will encounter in their reading. Students will not have to interrupt their reading to look up, ask for, or spend a lot of time figuring out the meaning of unfamiliar words. These words are later studied in-depth within the lesson.

Things to Know identifies terms or concepts that are integral to the reading but that may not be familiar to today's students. This section is intended to "level the playing field" for those students who may not have much prior knowledge about the time period, culture, or theme of the book. It also gets students involved with the book, increasing interest before they begin reading.

Questions to Think About helps students focus on the main ideas and important details they should be looking for as they read. This activity helps give students a *purpose* for reading. The goal of these guiding questions is to build knowledge, confidence, and comfort with the topics in the reading.

During Reading

- **Build Your Vocabulary** presents the 10 unit focus words in the exact context of the book. Students are then asked to write their own definitions and sentences for the words.
- **Check Your Understanding: Multiple Choice** offers 10 multiple-choice, literal comprehension questions for each section.
- **Check Your Understanding: Short Answer** contains 10 short-answer questions based on the reading.

After Reading

- **Deepen Your Understanding** is a writing activity that extends appreciation and analysis of the book. This activity focuses on critical-thinking skills and literary analysis.
- **End-of-Book Test** contains 20 multiple-choice items covering the book. These items ask questions that require students to synthesize the information in the book and make inferences in their answers.

CLASSROOM MANAGEMENT

Focus on Reading is very flexible. It can be used by the whole class, by small groups, or by individuals. Each study guide divides the novel into 6 manageable units of study.

This literature comprehension program is simple to use. Just photocopy the lessons and distribute them at the appropriate time as students read the novel.

You may want to reproduce and discuss the **Focus Your Knowledge** page before distributing the paperbacks. This page develops and activates prior knowledge to ensure that students have a grounding in the book before beginning reading. After reading this whole-book prereading page, students are ready to dive into the book.

The **Focus Your Reading** prereading activities are the keystone of this program. They prepare students for what they are going to read, providing focus for the complex task of reading. These pages should be distributed before students actually begin reading the corresponding section of the novel. There are no questions to be answered on these pages; these are for reference and support during reading. Students may choose to take notes on these pages as they read. This will also give students a study tool for review before the **End-of-Book Test**.

The **Focus Your Reading** pages also provide an excellent bridge to home. Parents, mentors, tutors, or

other involved adults can review vocabulary words with students, offer their own insights about the historical and cultural background outlined, and become familiar with the ideas students will be reading about. This can help families talk to students in a meaningful way about their reading, and it gives the adults something concrete to ask about to be sure that students are reading and understanding.

The **Build Your Vocabulary** and **Check Your Understanding: Multiple Choice** and **Short Answer** activities should be distributed when students begin reading the corresponding section of the novel. These literature guide pages are intended to help students comprehend and retain what they read; they should be available for students to refer to at any time during the reading.

Deepen Your Understanding is an optional extension activity that goes beyond literal questions about the book, asking students for their own ideas and opinions—and the reasons behind them. These postreading activities generally focus on literary analysis.

As reflected in its title, the **End-of-Book Test** is a postreading comprehension test to be completed after the entire novel has been read.

For your convenience, a clear **Answer Key** simplifies the scoring process.

Focus on the Book

Synopsis

Middle-grade student Stanley Yelnats comes from a luckless family. Perhaps it is no one's fault, but people often like to blame someone for their bad luck, and the Yelnats family has a ready-made scapegoat: Stanley's great-great-grandfather. He once stole a pig from a one-legged Gypsy, and from then on bad luck has befallen every Yelnats generation. Isn't it bad luck that Stanley got arrested for stealing a pair of sneakers? Although he is innocent, who would believe his story that they just fell out of the sky? The judge gave Stanley a choice: prison or Camp Green Lake. Stanley chose the camp. Who wouldn't choose camp over jail? But imagine his surprise when arriving at camp (a facility for juvenile delinquents) to find there is neither a lake nor anything green. And instead of rugged, outdoor, character-building activities, every day under the hot Texas sun he and the other inmates each have to dig a five-foot hole. Dig enough holes, the theory goes, and a bad boy will miraculously become a good boy.

Alongside Stanley's story at Camp Green Lake, the reader learns the history of the area. The past and the present come together to explain the strange goings-on at the camp. It turns out that Stanley and one of the other boys have a connection that goes back to the days of Stanley's notorious great-great-grandfather. Through his experience with his fellow campers, Stanley develops self-confidence, and, eventually, his luck changes.

About the Author

Born in East Meadow, New York, in 1954, Louis Sachar received a bachelor's degree from the University of California, Berkeley, in 1976, a doctor of journalism degree from the University of California, San Francisco, in 1980, and a doctor of jurisprudence degree (law degree) from Hastings College of Law in 1980.

Sachar has had a varied career. He worked as shipping manager for a company in Norwalk, Connecticut, that manufactured women's sweaters; became a writer; practiced law while writing at night; and finally gave up law in 1989 to write full time.

The author's love of writing for children began by chance when he became a teacher's aide while in college. Because he loved the job and the children, he decided to write for that age group.

Historical Background

Stanley Yelnats, the main character in *Holes*, is sent to Camp Green Lake, a camp for juvenile delinquents. He has been convicted of theft. The National Juvenile Detention Association defines juvenile detention in part as the "temporary and safe custody of juveniles . . . who require a restricted environment for their own and the community's protection." Camp Green Lake does not meet the definition of safe, and it does nothing to help reform offenders. It does not offer medical and emotional services that juvenile detention is supposed to provide to help young offenders change their behavior.

In *Holes*, the legend of Kissin' Kate Barlow is told along with that of the contemporary Stanley Yelnats. Kissin' Kate Barlow became an outlaw in the 1800s because the law seemed unjust to her, and she rebelled against it. In the story, Kate falls in love with a black man, Sam. He is a popular figure in town, doing odd jobs and selling onions, which seem to have curative properties. Even when the townspeople consult the town's medical doctor, they still come to Sam for medical advice. Sam's acceptance in the town only holds as long as he stays within certain limits; when he kisses Kate and a local woman sees it, Sam becomes a wanted man, and Kate becomes an outcast. Sam is shot as he tries to escape in a boat. Sam is killed under the claim of justice, but he has no trial. His shooting, then, is a lynching. Kate's heart is broken, and she becomes an outlaw after killing the sheriff.

Texas was the last state to officially abolish slavery. The Emancipation Proclamation was enacted January 1, 1863, but Texas did not officially free slaves until June 19, 1865. Between those dates, slaves continued to work as they always had. When Texas slaves were officially freed, the celebration known as Juneteenth was born.

Black Codes were laws passed by some Southern state legislatures after the Civil War. In Texas, Black Codes were enacted in 1866. These laws defined blacks' legal standing, continuing the inferior status that they had had before the Civil War. Among the laws was a prohibition against blacks marrying whites.

Focus Your Knowledge

- In *Holes*, you will find a story-within-a-story. One story deals with a boy in the present time. The other tells about some of the experiences of his great-great-grandfather, who had a curse put upon him. What is a curse? How is it supposed to affect the person it is put upon? Do you believe in curses? Why or why not?
- The great-great-grandfather's story took place one hundred ten years ago. How was life at that time different from life today? Consider such things as transportation, home appliances, amusements, schools, and jobs. What did men do at that time? What did women do? How did the population of our country at that time compare with the present population? Where did the people of towns one hundred years ago get their water and food? How do those sources compare with the sources we use today? How did the people of that time get their news? How do we get ours?
- The main character in *Holes*, Stanley, has been told that his great-great-grandfather was once robbed by a female bandit named Kissin' Kate Barlow. What do you know about the Wild West and bandits? Who were some famous outlaws of the time? Were there any women bandits among them?
- One boy in *Holes* does not know how to read. What would you be missing if you did not know how to read? How did you learn to read? Who taught you? How long did it take you to learn? How do you think you would go about teaching another person to read?

Focus Your Reading

Vocabulary Words to Know

Study the following words and definitions. You will meet these words in your reading. Be sure to jot down in your word journal any other unknown words from the reading.

shriveled—shrank and wrinkled
convicted—found guilty of a crime
perseverance—the ability to stick with a task despite obstacles
canteen—a container or flask for carrying water to drink
counselor—one who advises
sanitary—clean; free from germs

scarcity—insufficient amount
coincidence—events that accidentally happen at the same time but seem planned
despicable—something despised; contemptible
grimaced—made a face showing disgust

Things to Know

Here is some background information about this section of the book.

A **warden** is a person in charge of a prison who oversees the activities of the inmates.

When a person is suspected of committing a crime, he or she is usually arrested and tried in court. If the judge or jury feels that the person is guilty, he or she is convicted and sentenced, or given some punishment.

A juvenile correction facility is a place where young people, usually teenagers, are sent to be reformed. The routine there usually consists of exercise, military activities such as marching, and education. The goal of the facility is to improve the body, mind, and attitude of the offender and make him or her a better citizen.

Focus Your Reading

Questions to Think About

The following questions will help you understand the meaning of what you read. You do not have to write out the answers to these questions. Instead, look at them before you begin reading, and think about them while you are reading.

1. Which wild animal at Camp Green Lake do the campers fear most? Why?
2. What luck did Stanley's great-grandfather have? What misfortune did he endure? Overall, was he lucky or unlucky?
3. Why doesn't Camp Green Lake have a fence around it and guard towers, as some prisons do?
4. How do you think Stanley feels about Mr. Sir? How does he probably feel about Mr. Pendanski?
5. If Elya loved Myra, why didn't he choose a number and try to win her as his wife?

Build Your Vocabulary

Read the sentences below. On the line, write your definition of the word in bold type. Then, on another sheet of paper, use that word in a new sentence of your own.

1. “The town **shriveled** and dried up along with the lake, and the people who lived there.”
shriveled: _____
2. “He was innocent of the crime for which he was **convicted**.”
convicted: _____
3. “To be a successful inventor you need three things: intelligence, **perseverance**, and just a little bit of luck.”
perseverance: _____
4. “He was also given white sneakers, an orange cap, and a **canteen** made of heavy plastic, which unfortunately was empty.”
canteen: _____
5. “If you dig up anything interesting, you are to report it to me or any other **counselor**.”
counselor: _____
6. “Theodore spit a thin line of saliva between his teeth, causing some of the other boys to complain about the need to keep their ‘home’ **sanitary**.”
sanitary: _____
7. “Because of the **scarcity** of water, each camper was only allowed a four-minute shower.”
scarcity: _____
8. “It was too much of a **coincidence** to be a mere accident.”
coincidence: _____
9. “The judge called Stanley’s crime **despicable**.”
despicable: _____
10. “Stanley’s hole was . . . not quite wide enough on the bottom. He **grimaced** as he sliced off a chunk of dirt, then raised it up and flung it into a pile.”
grimaced: _____

Check Your Understanding

Multiple Choice

Circle the letter of the best answer to each question.

1. Why are the campers forbidden to lie in the hammock?
 - a. It doesn't belong to the camp.
 - b. Scorpions have made their home in it.
 - c. It belongs to the Warden.
2. Why hadn't Stanley enjoyed the bus ride to Camp Green Lake?
 - a. The bus had no air conditioning, and he was in handcuffs.
 - b. The bus driver was rude to him.
 - c. He was afraid the rifle the guard had on his lap would accidentally discharge.
3. Why does Stanley feel sorry for the guard and the bus driver?
 - a. Mr. Sir won't share his sunflower seeds.
 - b. Although it is terribly hot, they have to wear heavy uniforms.
 - c. They have had a nine-hour drive already and face another back.
4. Why does Mr. Sir tell Stanley, "This isn't a Girl Scout camp"?
 - a. He thinks Stanley has mistaken the camp for one the Girl Scouts use.
 - b. There are no girls at Camp Green Lake.
 - c. He wants Stanley to know that Camp Green Lake means a hard life.
5. Why doesn't Mr. Pendanski think that Stanley is a bad kid?
 - a. If Stanley were a bad kid, he'd have gone to jail.
 - b. Everyone makes mistakes.
 - c. He can tell by looking at Stanley that he isn't bad.
6. Why does Mr. Pendanski call the boys by their first names, not their nicknames?
 - a. Their first names will be what society calls them when they get out of camp.
 - b. He can't remember all the nicknames.
 - c. The nicknames are offensive to him.
7. Why is Stanley's first shower unsatisfactory?
 - a. The water is cold, and the shower is short.
 - b. The water is too hot, and there is no way to turn it down.
 - c. There isn't any soap.
8. What does Clyde Livingston, Stanley's hero, think about Stanley?
 - a. that he is innocent of the crime he was charged with
 - b. that he just has bad luck
 - c. that he is a no-good thief
9. When do the boys begin digging their holes each day, and why?
 - a. after breakfast, because they are well rested and well fed
 - b. before the sun is up, because it is cooler then
 - c. before breakfast, so that they can work up a good appetite
10. Why is it a surprise that Zero is the fastest digger in Group D?
 - a. He hates digging more than the others.
 - b. He is the smallest boy in the group.
 - c. He hasn't had much practice.

Check Your Understanding

Short Answer

Write a short answer for each question.

1. Do you think Stanley would have chosen the camp or jail if he knew what the camp was like?
2. What is Stanley's father trying to invent?
3. Why does Stanley say, "Duh" when he sees the sign saying the Texas Penal Code does not allow guns, explosives, weapons, drugs, or alcohol at the camp?
4. Why do you think the boys at the camp all call Mr. Pendanski "Mom"?
5. Do the nicknames at the camp tell something about the boys? If so, what?
6. Why do you think the boys don't believe Stanley when he says he stole Clyde Livingston's sneakers?
7. Why did the baseball schedule delay Stanley's trial?
8. How does each boy know that his hole is exactly five feet wide and five feet deep?
9. What did Madame Zeroni think of Myra Menke? Why?
10. Why did Sarah Yelnats name her child Stanley?

Deepen Your Understanding

In writing, a *flashback* is an interruption of events telling things that happened in the past. In *Holes*, there are numerous flashbacks that tell something about Stanley's father or ancestors. What do you think of this device? Do you think it makes Stanley's story more interesting? Is it confusing? Explain your ideas about flashbacks in this novel.

Focus Your Reading

Vocabulary Words to Know

Study the following words and definitions. You will meet these words in your reading. Be sure to jot down in your word journal any other unknown words from the reading.

predatory—in a manner of those that prey

on others, killing and consuming

intensity—the state of being intense;

extreme force, energy, or feeling

awesome—inspiring awe; extraordinary

survive—to remain alive

appropriate—suitable or fitting

responsible—trustworthy; able to

distinguish right from wrong

physical—relating to the body and its needs

metallic—made of or like metal

paranoid—suspicious; very fearful

excess—more than enough

Things to Know

Here is some background information about this section of the book.

Lizards are closely related to snakes. They vary in size and color. Because their bodies have little temperature control, they usually live in warm places such as deserts. They lie in the shade when the sun is too hot. Some lizards have large jaws and will bite, but few are poisonous. The only poisonous lizards are the Gila monster, found in the southwestern United States and northern Mexico, and the beaded lizard, which lives in Mexico.

A sign on the door of the rec room is spelled **Wreck Room**. Either someone is a poor speller or has a sense of humor. *Rec Room* is short for “Recreation Room”: a place where the campers can go to talk, read, or play games.

Focus Your Reading

Questions to Think About

The following questions will help you understand the meaning of what you read. You do not have to write out the answers to these questions. Instead, look at them before you begin reading, and think about them while you are reading.

1. Why do you think the Wreck Room is such a mess, with everything broken and initials carved into the pool table?
2. What is Stanley's nickname? Why do the boys give him that name?
3. Why does Mr. Pendanski want each of the boys to have goals? Why doesn't Stanley tell him his goal?
4. Why does the Warden have two boys at each hole, one digging out the dirt and the other shoveling it into the wheelbarrow?

Build Your Vocabulary

Read the sentences below. On the line, write your definition of the word in bold type. Then, on another sheet of paper, use that word in a new sentence of your own.

1. “The yellow-spotted lizards like to live in holes, which offer shade from the sun and protection from **predatory** birds.”
predatory: _____
2. “Zero stared at him for a moment, with the same **intensity** with which he had been staring at the letter.”
intensity: _____
3. “He took it one shovelful at a time, and tried not to think of the **awesome** task that lay ahead of him.”
awesome: _____
4. “If he was going to **survive** at Camp Green Lake, it was far more important that X-ray think he was a good guy than it was for him to get one day off.”
survive: _____
5. “He used to think he wanted to work for the F.B.I., but this didn’t seem the **appropriate** place to mention that.”
appropriate: _____
6. “You’re the reason you’re here. You’re **responsible** for yourself.”
responsible: _____
7. “He figured that in a year and a half he’d be either in great **physical** condition, or else dead.”
physical: _____
8. “He felt something hard and **metallic**. He pulled it out. It was a gold tube. . . .”
metallic: _____
9. “‘She’s got hidden microphones and cameras all over the place.’ . . . [Stanley] wondered if Zigzag was just being **paranoid**.”
paranoid: _____
10. “He carted away the **excess** dirt and dumped it into previously dug holes.”
excess: _____

Check Your Understanding

Multiple Choice

Circle the letter of the best answer to each question.

1. Where do yellow-spotted lizards like to live?
 - a. underground
 - b. in holes
 - c. under shady trees
2. What does Stanley find while digging his second hole?
 - a. a rock with a fossilized fish in it
 - b. a canteen
 - c. the gold top of a pen
3. When Mr. Pendanski asks the boys about their goals, what does Stanley say he wants to be?
 - a. a fireman
 - b. a famous writer
 - c. an animal trainer
4. What is the second thing Stanley finds while digging?
 - a. a fossilized fish
 - b. a gold tube
 - c. a copper coin
5. Why does the Warden let X-ray have a double shower and clean clothes?
 - a. She thinks he found the gold tube.
 - b. She is pleased that he is the fastest digger.
 - c. He is her favorite boy at Camp Green Lake.
6. According to Zero, how does the Warden know the nickname of every camper?
 - a. She watches and listens with hidden devices.
 - b. She checked with Mr. Sir and Mr. Pendanski, who told her their nicknames.
 - c. She takes each boy aside and asks him his nickname.
7. Is Zigzag watching TV when he asks the boys to be quiet?
 - a. No, he is playing pool.
 - b. Yes, and he can't concentrate.
 - c. No, because the TV isn't working.
8. When two boys are digging each hole, why does Stanley use the wheelbarrow?
 - a. The warden wants to take it easy on him.
 - b. He is the slowest digger.
 - c. He found the gold tube.
9. Why are the shovels locked up each night?
 - a. so that they won't rust in the night air
 - b. so that the boys won't throw them away
 - c. so that they won't be used as weapons
10. Why does Zigzag hit Stanley with his shovel?
 - a. He doesn't like Stanley.
 - b. Stanley's dirt is covering up Zigzag's dirt.
 - c. Stanley gave the gold tube to X-ray rather than to Zigzag.

Check Your Understanding

Short Answer

Write a short answer for each question.

1. What is the only thing that gets Stanley out of bed the morning after he digs his first hole?
2. Why does Mr. Pendanski laugh when Stanley expects a day off for finding a rock with a fossilized fish?
3. Why does Stanley agree to give anything he finds to X-ray?
4. Which hole seems the hardest to Stanley?
5. What is engraved on the gold tube that Stanley finds?
6. Why does Stanley move up one place in the water line?
7. Why didn't X-ray want to talk about the gold tube at breakfast?
8. Why does Stanley's mother say she is proud of him?
9. When Zero asks about the nursery rhyme, why doesn't Stanley recite it for him?
10. Why does the Warden jab Armpit with her pitchfork?

Deepen Your Understanding

Stanley has never been very well accepted by his peers. Although he gets off to a rough start at Camp Green Lake, there are signs that he might be able to get along there. Discuss some of these signs and what they reveal about Stanley's new community.

Focus Your Reading

Vocabulary Words to Know

Study the following words and definitions. You will meet these words in your reading. Be sure to jot down in your word journal any other unknown words from the reading.

throbbing—pounding with abnormal force;
beating or vibrating in a rhythm

penetrating—piercing

unearthed—uncovered; dug up

writhed—twitched as if in pain

condemned—sentenced to die

desolate—deserted

astonishment—amazement

fabulous—wonderful; marvelous

grotesque—differing greatly from the
normal; ugly

distracted—mentally confused or troubled

Things to Know

Here is some background information about this section of the book.

Racial problems are those that arise when people of different races cannot get along well with each other because of the color of their skin or their ethnic backgrounds.

Venom is the poison of an animal, such as a scorpion, a rattlesnake, or a black widow spider. In this book, the yellow-spotted lizard is venomous.

An **outlaw** is someone who is wanted for breaking the law.

Focus Your Reading

Questions to Think About

The following questions will help you understand the meaning of what you read. You do not have to write out the answers to these questions. Instead, look at them before you begin reading, and think about them while you are reading.

1. Why hasn't Zero learned to read?
2. Why doesn't Stanley tell Mr. Sir that Magnet stole the sunflower seeds?
3. What kind of person is the Warden? Does she care about anyone besides herself?
4. In the story of Sam and Kate, why does Hattie Parker say "God will punish you!" when she sees Sam and Kate kissing?
5. What pushes Kate Barlow to become an outlaw?

Build Your Vocabulary

Read the sentences below. On the line, write your definition of the word in bold type. Then, on another sheet of paper, use that word in a new sentence of your own.

1. “If he jerked too quickly, he felt a **throbbing** pain just above his neck where Zigzag’s shovel had hit him.”
throbbing: _____
2. “Zero stared at him with **penetrating** eyes.”
penetrating: _____
3. “As he tried to cover them up, he **unearthed** a corner of the sack.”
unearthed: _____
4. “His body **writhed** in agony.”
writhed: _____
5. “Stanley wondered if this was how a **condemned** man felt on his way to the electric chair. . . .”
condemned: _____
6. “Walking across the **desolate** wasteland, Stanley thought about his great-grandfather. . . .”
desolate: _____
7. “He suddenly realized where he’d seen the gold tube before. . . . He felt a jolt of **astonishment**.”
astonishment: _____
8. “A special prize was given every year to Miss Katherine Barlow for her **fabulous** spiced peaches.”
fabulous: _____
9. “No one even dared to look at his **grotesque** face.”
grotesque: _____
10. ““You seem **distracted**.””
distracted: _____

Check Your Understanding

Multiple Choice

Circle the letter of the best answer to each question.

1. Why doesn't Stanley see what damage Zigzag's shovel has done?
 - a. The blow has damaged his eyesight.
 - b. The Warden won't let him check the damage.
 - c. There are no mirrors at camp.
2. Why do you think Squid won't tell Stanley the real reason he cried?
 - a. He is embarrassed.
 - b. He thinks Stanley will tell the Warden.
 - c. He dislikes Stanley.
3. Who stole the bag of sunflower seeds?
 - a. Magnet
 - b. Stanley
 - c. Armpit
4. Why does the Warden strike Mr. Sir in the face?
 - a. She has always hated him, and this is her revenge.
 - b. She asks him to do a favor for her, and he refuses.
 - c. She doesn't think the stolen sunflower seeds are important.
5. Who knows what "God's thumb" means?
 - a. the nurse the great-grandfather married
 - b. no one
 - c. the great-grandfather and, later, Stanley's grandfather
6. Which students did Kate Barlow teach in her one-room schoolhouse?
 - a. the children of Green Lake
 - b. the children and adults of Green Lake
 - c. only Trout Walker
7. Why does Mr. Sir let Stanley's water run onto the ground rather than into his canteen?
 - a. He is angry because he blames Stanley for getting him in trouble with the Warden.
 - b. He likes to tease the boys at the camp, and it is Stanley's turn.
 - c. He hopes that Stanley will get sick without water and perhaps even die.
8. In the past, when people in Green Lake were sick, who did they turn to for help?
 - a. Dr. Hawthorn and Sam the onion man
 - b. Dr. Hawthorn and Katherine Barlow
 - c. Dr. Hawthorn and Mary Lou
9. Who did Katherine Barlow refuse to kiss?
 - a. Dr. Hawthorn
 - b. Sam the onion man
 - c. Trout Walker
10. What is the first thing Zero writes after learning the alphabet?
 - a. a letter to his family
 - b. his real name
 - c. his nickname

Check Your Understanding

Short Answer

Write a short answer for each question.

1. Why does Stanley at first refuse when Zero asks him to teach him to read?
2. What is it about the boys that makes Stanley keep his mouth shut?
3. Why is Stanley surprised to find holes close to the Warden's cabin?
4. How does Stanley guess that it is Zero who has been digging his hole while he was at the Warden's?
5. Why does Stanley finally decide to teach Zero to read?
6. What did Kate Barlow do that angered Trout Walker?
7. What did Sam claim was the reason why Mary Lou lived so long?
8. What did Sam say every time Kate Barlow complained about something?
9. Why did the town mob turn against Miss Katherine?
10. How does Mr. Pendanski make up for Mr. Sir's dumping of Stanley's water?

Deepen Your Understanding

Imagine that you, like Zero, have only recently learned to read and write. Write a letter to a family member or a friend explaining what reading and writing mean to you. Explain how you used to get along without these skills, and how your life has changed now that you have them.

Focus Your Reading

Vocabulary Words to Know

Study the following words and definitions. You will meet these words in your reading. Be sure to jot down in your word journal any other unknown words from the reading.

abandoned—unoccupied; deserted

drought—a prolonged lack of rain

humidity—a moderate wetness of the atmosphere

delirious—mentally disturbed and confused, often as a result of high fever

refuge—shelter or protection from danger

accelerated—gained speed; went faster and faster

lopsided—leaning to one side; asymmetrical

mirage—something seen that does not exist

grimly—seriously

ventilation—the circulation of air

Things to Know

Here is some background information about this section of the book.

Often when a storm approaches a mountain range, the air rises to clear the mountaintops and, as it rises, cools. The cool air releases the precipitation it is carrying, which falls on the mountaintops and sides. That is why you often see snow-covered mountains even when the flatland is quite warm.

During a lightning storm, the boys mention “**forty days and forty nights**” and building an ark to carry two of each animal. These are biblical allusions, references to a Bible story. They are talking about the story of Noah, who was told by God to build a huge ark and fill it with one pair of each kind of animal. Other people laughed at him, but when it rained for forty days and forty nights, only those aboard the ark survived.

Focus Your Reading

Questions to Think About

The following questions will help you understand the meaning of what you read. You do not have to write out the answers to these questions. Instead, look at them before you begin reading, and think about them while you are reading.

1. Why did Kate Barlow, while living in the cabin, think she was crazy?
2. What did Stanley's great-grandfather mean when he said he lived for three weeks in the desert because he "found refuge on God's Thumb"?
3. Unlike Mr. Sir, Mr. Pendanski treats the boys pretty well. Why, then, does Zero hit him with a shovel?
4. How do Stanley and Zero help each other after running away?
5. What does Stanley learn about himself on the journey to help Zero?

IV. CHAPTERS 28–35

DURING READING

Build Your Vocabulary

Read the sentences below. On the line, write your definition of the word in bold type. Then, on another sheet of paper, use that word in a new sentence of your own.

1. “The peach trees had all died, but there were a couple of small oak trees growing by an old **abandoned** cabin.”
abandoned: _____
2. “It has to rain soon. The **drought** can’t last forever.”
drought: _____
3. “The **humidity**, or maybe the electricity in the air, had made Zigzag’s head even more wild-looking.”
humidity: _____
4. “No one ever knew what he meant by that. He was **delirious** when he said it.”
delirious: _____
5. “I found **refuge** on God’s Thumb.”
refuge: _____
6. “Stanley jerked back against the seat and tightly gripped the wheel as the truck **accelerated**. His foot was pressed to the floor.”
accelerated: _____
7. “He lay on the dirt staring at the truck, which stuck **lopsided** into the ground.”
lopsided: _____
8. “There wasn’t any water. It was a **mirage** caused by the shimmering waves of heat rising off the dry ground.”
mirage: _____
9. “Someone may have drowned here, he thought **grimly**—at the same spot where he could very well die of thirst.”
grimly: _____
10. “There were enough cracks and holes in the bottom of the boat, now the roof, to provide light and **ventilation**.”
ventilation: _____

IV. CHAPTERS 28–35

DURING READING

Check Your Understanding

Multiple Choice

Circle the letter of the best answer to each question.

1. Why did Kate Barlow return to Green Lake after twenty years?
 - a. She wanted to visit Sam's grave.
 - b. Because the town was gone, she figured she could hide out there.
 - c. She wanted to make more of her spiced peaches from her special trees.
2. Where had Kate met Linda Miller before?
 - a. Linda was in Kate's class when Linda was in the fourth grade.
 - b. Linda met Kate while Kate was on the road as an outlaw.
 - c. Linda was in the mob that burned down the schoolhouse.
3. How did Kate Barlow die?
 - a. Trout Walker shot her.
 - b. She was bitten by a lizard.
 - c. She died in jail.
4. Why is Mr. Pendanski partially responsible for the fight between Zigzag and Stanley?
 - a. He encourages Stanley to hit Zigzag.
 - b. He asks Zero who started the argument, and Zero tells him Zigzag did.
 - c. He threatens not to give Stanley any water unless he whips Zigzag.
5. What does the Warden say when she learns that Zero has been helping Stanley dig?
 - a. Zero will have to dig an extra hole each day.
 - b. No more digging anybody's hole, and no more lessons.
 - c. Stanley will have to help Zero dig his holes.
6. How does the Warden plan to punish Zero for running away?
 - a. She will make him dig extra holes.
 - b. She will not allow him to use the Wreck Room for a month.
 - c. She will not let him drink water and will scratch him with her nails.
7. Why does the Warden want Zero's files erased?
 - a. to avoid trouble with the A.G.'s office
 - b. to keep Zero's parents from learning what happened to him and why
 - c. to frighten the others into behaving
8. What reason does Stanley have for stealing Mr. Sir's truck?
 - a. He has always wanted to learn to drive but has never had the chance before.
 - b. It will teach Mr. Sir a lesson for being so mean to the boys.
 - c. He can cover more ground searching for Zero.
9. Why does Stanley decide to walk across the desert toward the mountain?
 - a. It is the only landmark in the desert.
 - b. His great-grandfather may have taken refuge there.
 - c. He thinks Zero is hiding there.
10. Where does Stanley find Zero?
 - a. under a boat
 - b. on top of Big Thumb
 - c. in a depression in the desert

Check Your Understanding

Short Answer

Write a short answer for each question.

1. What did Green Lake look like when Kate Barlow returned to it?
2. Why did Linda guess that Kate had buried the money?
3. How does Stanley know that Zero was smarter than anyone thinks?
4. Why does Zero hit Mr. Pendanski with a shovel?
5. Why doesn't Stanley tell the Warden where he found the lipstick tube?
6. What had Twitch done to get sent to Camp Green Lake?
7. Why doesn't Stanley drive across the desert in the truck to find Zero?
8. What scares Stanley in the desert and makes him run?
9. What food has Zero been living on in the desert?
10. What does the mountain in the distance look like to Zero?

Deepen Your Understanding

Stanley has always blamed someone else for his bad luck. Now Stanley feels very guilty about not searching for Zero. Why do you think he feels this way? What does this suggest about Stanley?

Focus Your Reading

Vocabulary Words to Know

Study the following words and definitions. You will meet these words in your reading. Be sure to jot down in your word journal any other unknown words from the reading.

exhausted—very tired; worn out

situated—arranged; set up

interwoven—woven together; intertwined

increments—a series of regular gains

wrenching—sharply twisting; straining

generations—spans of time between the births of parents and their children

comprehend—to understand; to take something in

snickered—laughed quietly

raspy—harsh, grating

summoned—called on; drew up

Things to Know

Here is some background information about this section of the book.

Stanley uses his head while he and Zero are out in the desert. He realizes that there must be water around because there are bugs and weeds.

Zero tells Stanley a bit about his life in this section of the book. Stanley learns that Zero was **homeless**; he had no permanent place to live. Homeless people sometimes stay in **shelters**, buildings that provide beds for people who have no place but in the streets to sleep. Being a **ward of the state** means that a child has no family to care for him or her; the state's social service agencies are supposed to take care of his or her needs.

Focus Your Reading

Questions to Think About

The following questions will help you understand the meaning of what you read. You do not have to write out the answers to these questions. Instead, look at them before you begin reading, and think about them while you are reading.

1. What is Zero's philosophy when Stanley confesses he isn't lucky?

2. How do the boys use teamwork to scale the ledge?

3. When they are almost to Big Thumb, why is Stanley scared?

4. Why does Stanley feel happiness, even though he and Zero are still in a difficult situation?

Build Your Vocabulary

Read the sentences below. On the line, write your definition of the word in bold type. Then, on another sheet of paper, use that word in a new sentence of your own.

1. “He was weak and **exhausted**, yet, as bad as he felt, he knew that Zero felt ten times worse.”
exhausted: _____
2. “While Zero was getting himself **situated** up there, Stanley attached the sack to the shovel by poking a hole through the burlap.”
situated: _____
3. “Stanley cupped his hands together, and Zero stepped on his **interwoven** fingers.”
interwoven: _____
4. “Instead they zigzagged back and forth, increasing their altitude by small **increments** every time they changed direction.”
increments: _____
5. “Suddenly, Zero made a horrible, **wrenching** noise as he doubled over and grabbed his stomach.”
wrenching: _____
6. “As he drifted into sleep, Stanley softly sang him the song that had been in his family for **generations**.”
generations: _____
7. “It took a moment for Stanley to **comprehend**.”
comprehend: _____
8. “Mrs. Gladys Tennyson was wearing just her nightgown and robe as she came running down the street after Sam. . . . Several people **snickered**.”
snickered: _____
9. “‘You sure you’re not thirsty?’ he asked. ‘Not me,’ said Zero. His voice was dry and **raspy**.”
raspy: _____
10. “The fear made him dizzy. He took a breath, **summoned** his courage, and continued.”
summoned: _____

Check Your Understanding

Multiple Choice

Circle the letter of the best answer to each question.

1. What does the thumbs-up sign the boys give each other mean?
 - a. All right.
 - b. Be quiet!
 - c. Now it's my turn.
2. Why does Stanley think he might have to dig a grave for Zero at one point?
 - a. Zero has dug a hole for him.
 - b. He thinks Zero might die.
 - c. Zero is getting depressed.
3. How does Zero get gashes on his hands?
 - a. He cut his hands on sharp rocks pulling Stanley up onto a ledge.
 - b. He cut his hands on the blade of the shovel.
 - c. He cut his hands on a broken jar.
4. Why do the boys zigzag back and forth as they climb the mountain?
 - a. It is too steep for them to climb straight up.
 - b. They are so dizzy from the altitude that they do not know what they are doing.
 - c. They are so tired that they weave back and forth.
5. When Zero falls down and can't get up, why does Stanley tell him he has already ordered his hot fudge sundae?
 - a. He thinks food will tempt Zero to get up.
 - b. It is their little joke.
 - c. He thinks Zero will believe him.
6. Why does Stanley think he'll never find water at the top of Big Thumb?
 - a. It hasn't rained lately.
 - b. It is so steep he'd never be able to climb it.
 - c. Water will not stay on top of a rock.
7. What did Mrs. Tennyson think made her daughter, Rebecca, sick?
 - a. a virus
 - b. bad meat
 - c. swimming in the cold lake
8. What does Zero confess to Stanley?
 - a. that he committed the crime that Stanley was accused of
 - b. that he has known how to read all along
 - c. that he has blamed Stanley for his troubles
9. What did Zero do with the sneakers he stole?
 - a. put them on the roof of a car
 - b. took them back to the shelter
 - c. sold them to buy food
10. What do the boys plan to do when they get back to Camp Green Lake?
 - a. dig for treasure
 - b. steal food and water
 - c. both of the above

Check Your Understanding

Short Answer

Write a short answer for each question.

1. Why don't the boys get rid of the glass jars after drinking the sploosh?
2. What scares Stanley the most about dying?
3. Why do the boys keep the pieces of the jar that broke?
4. Besides water, what does Stanley find in the mud?
5. Why does Stanley touch the rock when he and Zero finally reach the top of the mountain?
6. How was Dr. Hawthorn going to treat Rebecca Tennyson?
7. Why did Hattie's face flush when she learned what caused Rebecca Tennyson's illness?
8. Why doesn't Zero help dig the water hole?
9. What was it about the Cub Scouts that had appealed to Zero as a child?
10. What was strange about the stuffed giraffe Zero always carried with him as a child?

Deepen Your Understanding

Now that Zero knows how to spell some words, draft a letter that he might write with Stanley's help—if they could get into the Wreck Room—to explain to Clyde Livingston what happened to his sneakers. Include how you got the sneakers, what you had planned to do with them, and how you felt when you learned who they belonged to. Then explain the role the sneakers played in your present situation as a fugitive.

Focus Your Reading

Vocabulary Words to Know

Study the following words and definitions. You will meet these words in your reading. Be sure to jot down in your word journal any other unknown words from the reading.

pronounced—strongly noticeable

precarious—insecure; unstable

scramble—to move or climb hastily

commotion—a noisy confusion

illuminated—lit up

frantically—in a desperate, anxious way

initiate—begin; start

custody—control; safekeeping

strenuous—requiring a lot of energy

jurisdiction—authority to interpret and
apply the law

Things to Know

Here is some background information about this section of the book.

A.G. is an abbreviation for Attorney General, the chief law enforcement official of a state.

Stock certificates, deeds of trust, and promissory notes are financial papers that can be quite valuable.

Focus Your Reading

Questions to Think About

The following questions will help you understand the meaning of what you read. You do not have to write out the answers to these questions. Instead, look at them before you begin reading, and think about them while you are reading.

1. How does the Warden plan to explain the missing boys after they are dead?
2. What thoughts keep Stanley going when he is in the hole with the lizards? Why are these thoughts helpful?
3. What will happen to the camp once the treasure is found?
4. How have their experiences at Camp Green Lake changed Stanley and Zero?
5. How do you feel about the Warden, Mr. Pendanski, and Mr. Sir at the end of the story? Why?

Build Your Vocabulary

Read the sentences below. On the line, write your definition of the word in bold type. Then, on another sheet of paper, use that word in a new sentence of your own.

1. “As the dirt chipped and flaked away, the hard object became more **pronounced**.”
pronounced: _____
2. “As his tunnel grew deeper and wider—and more **precarious**—Stanley was able to feel the latches on one end of the box. . . .”
precarious: _____
3. “He wondered if he should try to **scramble** out of the hole before the lizards turned on him, but he didn’t want to cause any **commotion**.”
scramble: _____
commotion: _____
4. “The light also **illuminated** Stanley’s hole.”
illuminated: _____
5. “Stanley felt the blast shatter the air around him. The lizards scurried **frantically** across his very still body.”
frantically: _____
6. ““The woman’s going to ask a lot of questions. The A.G. will most likely **initiate** an investigation.””
initiate: _____
7. ““The boys in my **custody** have proved themselves dangerous to society.””
custody: _____
8. “His legs were sore from remaining rigid for so long. Standing still was more **strenuous** than walking.”
strenuous: _____
9. “‘He has to open it!’ said the Warden. . . . ‘He’s no longer under your **jurisdiction**,’ said Stanley’s lawyer.”
jurisdiction: _____

VI. CHAPTERS 44–50

DURING READING

Check Your Understanding

Multiple Choice

Circle the letter of the best answer to each question.

1. How does Zero know when it is time to wake up and start digging?
 - a. There is no noise in the camp.
 - b. There is only a single light in the office.
 - c. both of the above
2. Why does Stanley have to bring each shovelful of dirt close to his face?
 - a. to see what, if anything, is in the dirt
 - b. to smell what is in the dirt
 - c. to be sure the shovel has scooped up enough dirt
3. Why is everyone afraid of the lizards?
 - a. They hurt when they bite.
 - b. There are a lot of them.
 - c. They are poisonous.
4. What happens to the lizard that springs at Mr. Sir?
 - a. It lands on the ground behind Mr. Sir.
 - b. Mr. Sir shoots it.
 - c. Mr. Pendanski bats it away with a shovel.
5. How does Mr. Sir learn that Stanley is innocent?
 - a. Stanley's lawyer comes to pick Stanley up.
 - b. The Attorney General tells him over the telephone.
 - c. Clyde Livingston tells him that Stanley didn't steal his sneakers.
6. How does the Warden try to claim the metal suitcase?
 - a. She says she lost it many years ago and Stanley has just found it.
 - b. She says Stanley stole it from her cabin.
 - c. She says Zero stole it and gave it to Stanley.
7. What has happened to Zero's records?
 - a. They have been deleted.
 - b. They have accidentally been transferred to another camp.
 - c. They have been taken as evidence.
8. What evidence does Ms. Morengo have that Stanley is innocent?
 - a. Stanley's father told her that Stanley was home at the time of the crime.
 - b. Stanley's mother said that Stanley told her he didn't steal the sneakers.
 - c. Someone saw Stanley at school five minutes after the sneakers were stolen.
9. What happens to Camp Green Lake?
 - a. It is taken over by a Warden who is honest and caring.
 - b. It becomes a Girl Scout camp.
 - c. A state monument to Clyde Livingston is erected there.
10. What does Stanley's father invent, and what famous person does it help?
 - a. recycled sneakers/ Clyde Livingston
 - b. Sploosh/Ms. Morengo
 - c. foot deodorant/Clyde Livingston

Check Your Understanding

Short Answer

Write a short answer for each question.

1. While looking for the treasure, why doesn't Stanley dig the hole deeper?
2. When he has the box partly exposed, why doesn't Stanley just dig down to it?
3. What does the Warden mean when she says the boys have been a big help?
4. Why is Mr. Sir wearing only his pajama bottoms when Stanley digs out the box?
5. Why don't the lizards bite Stanley and Zero?
6. How did the boys at the camp get the truck Stanley stole out of the hole?
7. How is the locked suitcase finally opened?
8. Why are the jewels somewhat disappointing?
9. What kind of party is held at the Yelnats' house?
10. At the end of the book, who sings the song that her grandmother used to sing to her?

Deepen Your Understanding

Now that you have finished reading the book, think about the title, *Holes*. Choose one of the following characters: Stanley, Zero, the Warden, Kate Barlow. Write about the kinds of holes that character faces in the story, how those holes affect him or her, and what he or she does about them. Then think about some holes in your life, and explain what you might do about them.

End-of-Book Test

Circle the letter of the best answer to each question.

1. Why is being poisoned by a scorpion or a rattlesnake better than being bitten by a lizard?
 - a. Yellow-spotted lizards take huge bites.
 - b. Those injuries are not always fatal.
 - c. Scorpions and rattlesnakes only sting a little.
2. Why doesn't Stanley have any friends at home?
 - a. He lives out in the country, where there are few children to play with.
 - b. He doesn't like company and wants to be left alone.
 - c. He is overweight, and the kids in school tease him.
3. What should Elya have done one more time if he wanted to marry Myra?
 - a. carried the pig up the mountain
 - b. asked her to marry him
 - c. given Myra's father some money
4. When does Stanley realize he's been given the nickname Caveman?
 - a. when Armpit and Squid call him that
 - b. when he almost gets in a fight with Lump
 - c. when he first arrives at camp
5. How does Stanley come to realize what the gold tube he found is?
 - a. The engraving on the tube says "lipstick."
 - b. There is a picture of a lipstick tube in the book he uses to teach Zero.
 - c. He sees a lipstick tube in the Warden's makeup kit.
6. Why did Trout Walker threaten to shoot Kate Barlow?
 - a. because she had kissed a black man
 - b. because she was an outlaw
 - c. because she wouldn't tell him where the loot was buried
7. Why doesn't a search party go out in the desert to find Zero?
 - a. They think he is nothing.
 - b. He hit Mr. Pendanski with a shovel and deserves to die.
 - c. They figure he is already dead without food and water.
8. What does the truck Stanley was going to steal offer?
 - a. transportation and water
 - b. transportation and tools
 - c. shade and comfort
9. Why is Stanley's canteen empty when he runs away?
 - a. Mr. Sir has poured his water onto the ground.
 - b. Mr. Sir is punishing him by withholding water.
 - c. Mr. Sir hasn't filled his canteen yet.
10. What does Stanley do when he sees a family of lizards in a hole while he is searching for Zero?
 - a. He runs until he collapses.
 - b. He sits on the mound of dirt and watches them.
 - c. He jumps across the hole and runs.

(continued)

End-of-Book Test (continued)

11. What comes out of the tunnel beneath the overturned boat?
 - a. a yellow-spotted lizard
 - b. a rattlesnake's rattle
 - c. a boy's hand
12. What is the good news and the bad news about the sploosh?
 - a. It provides liquid but tastes terrible.
 - b. It saves Zero's life but makes him sick.
 - c. There is enough of it for both Stanley and Zero, but it is heavy to carry.
13. Does Stanley think the Warden will send out a search party for him and Zero?
 - a. Yes, because she will get in trouble if they die.
 - b. No, because she can claim it wasn't her fault they ran away.
 - c. Maybe, because Stanley has a family who knows he is at the camp.
14. What is the foul odor that Stanley notices when he picks up Zero?
 - a. Zero's body odor
 - b. onions, growing and rotting
 - c. their dirty, sweaty clothes
15. In Dr. Hawthorn's day, what were leeches used for in medicine?
 - a. to suck blood from sick people
 - b. to be dried and ground up into a medicine
 - c. to be made into a plaster to cover a wound
16. Why is Stanley amazed when he finds the shovel and the jars down the mountain?
 - a. He doesn't believe he can have carried Zero up the mountain that far.
 - b. The shovel and the jars have not rolled all the way down the mountain.
 - c. He is surprised all the jars aren't broken.
17. When he was homeless, why didn't Zero go to shelters often?
 - a. The food they served did not taste very good.
 - b. He liked to sleep outdoors better than in the shelter.
 - c. He was afraid the officials there would make him a ward of the state.
18. What has caused Stanley's trial to keep being delayed?
 - a. It is baseball season, and Clyde Livingston is too busy to testify.
 - b. Stanley's parents can't afford a lawyer to handle his defense.
 - c. The judge has too many trials to handle and can't get to Stanley's.
19. While he is in the treasure hole, Stanley and the others see a tarantula. Does it bite anyone? Why or why not?
 - a. No, because Mr. Sir shoots it.
 - b. Yes, because it lands on Mr. Pendanski and he moves.
 - c. No, because a yellow-spotted lizard eats it.
20. How do Stanley and Zero find their way back from the desert to the camp?
 - a. Stanley follows the setting sun.
 - b. Zero draws a diagram of the route they must take.
 - c. Sounds from the camp travel all across the desert, and the boys follow them back.

Answer Key

I. CHAPTERS 1–7

Build Your Vocabulary

Wording and definitions may vary. Students may remember the definitions given in the Vocabulary Words to Know section of Focus Your Reading, or they may refine the definitions based on the context and the reading overall. Students' new sentences will vary.

Check Your Understanding: Multiple Choice

- | | |
|------|-------|
| 1. c | 6. a |
| 2. a | 7. a |
| 3. c | 8. c |
| 4. c | 9. b |
| 5. b | 10. b |

Check Your Understanding: Short Answer

1. Answers will vary.
2. recycled sneakers
3. He thinks that the restrictions are so obvious that no sign is needed.
4. He took care of them, taught them, and mothered them.
5. The camp nicknames tend to tell something about the boys' appearance or character.
6. Clyde Livingston is a famous athlete.
7. Clyde was playing baseball and was not available to testify at the trial.
8. He measures the depth and width with his five-foot-long shovel.
9. Myra's head is empty; she is silly, foolish, and spoiled.
10. *Stanley* is *Yelnats* spelled backward.

Deepen Your Understanding

Answers will vary.

II. CHAPTERS 8–17

Build Your Vocabulary

Wording and definitions may vary. Students may remember the definitions given in the Vocabulary Words to Know section of Focus Your Reading, or they may refine the definitions based on the context and the reading overall. Students' new sentences will vary.

Check Your Understanding: Multiple Choice

- | | |
|------|-------|
| 1. b | 6. a |
| 2. a | 7. c |
| 3. c | 8. b |
| 4. b | 9. c |
| 5. a | 10. b |

Check Your Understanding: Short Answer

1. He wants to get out on the lake before the sun comes up.
2. Mr. Pendanski doesn't think the Warden will be interested in the rock.
3. He wants to stay on the good side of X-ray, who is the group leader.
4. every one of them
5. a heart with *KB* engraved in it
6. Because X-ray is pleased with Stanley, he lets him move up one place in line.
7. He is afraid the Warden will hear them talking over her listening device.
8. for making the best of a bad situation
9. He would feel silly.
10. He is absent when she arrives.

Deepen Your Understanding

Answers will vary.

III. CHAPTERS 18–27

Build Your Vocabulary

Wording and definitions may vary. Students may remember the definitions given in the Vocabulary Words to Know section of Focus on Reading, or they may refine the definitions based on the context and the reading overall. Students' new sentences will vary.

Check Your Understanding: Multiple Choice

- | | |
|------|-------|
| 1. c | 6. b |
| 2. a | 7. a |
| 3. a | 8. a |
| 4. c | 9. c |
| 5. b | 10. c |

Check Your Understanding: Short Answer

1. He doesn't know how to teach, and he has to save his energy for those who count.
2. They are dangerous.
3. He didn't think the Warden would like people digging holes near her cabin.
4. His hole is almost done, and Zero's hole is the smallest one of all.
5. Zero helped him dig his hole and knew that he didn't steal the sunflower seeds or the sneakers.
6. She refused to take a ride in his new boat.
7. Sam thought the donkey lived so long because she ate only onions.
8. "I can fix that."
9. The mob turned against Miss Katherine because she kissed a black man.
10. Mr. Pendanski gives Stanley a little more water.

Deepen Your Understanding

Answers will vary.

IV. CHAPTERS 28–35**Build Your Vocabulary**

Wording and definitions may vary. Students may remember the definitions given in the Vocabulary Words to Know section of Focus Your Reading, or they may refine the definitions based on the context and the reading overall. Students' new sentences will vary.

Check Your Understanding: Multiple Choice

- | | |
|------|-------|
| 1. b | 6. c |
| 2. a | 7. a |
| 3. b | 8. c |
| 4. a | 9. b |
| 5. b | 10. a |

Check Your Understanding: Short Answer

1. It was a ghost town. The peach trees had all died, and the lake had become just a dirty pond, with its shoreline five miles away.
2. She saw a shovel in Kate's cabin.
3. Zero can figure out math problems in his head.
4. Mr. Pendanski insulted him and told him he was good for nothing but digging holes.
5. Stanley is afraid that if he tells that he found the tube, both he and X-ray will get in trouble.

6. Twitch had stolen cars.
7. Stanley accidentally drove the truck into a hole and had to leave it there.
8. He sees a family of yellow-spotted lizards and is afraid they will chase and bite him.
9. Zero had been living on sploosh.
10. like a thumb sticking out from a fist

Deepen Your Understanding

Answers will vary.

V. CHAPTERS 36–43**Build Your Vocabulary**

Wording and definitions may vary. Students may remember the definitions given in the Vocabulary Words to Know section of Focus Your Reading, or they may refine the definitions based on the context and the reading overall. Students' new sentences will vary.

Check Your Understanding: Multiple Choice

- | | |
|------|-------|
| 1. a | 6. c |
| 2. b | 7. b |
| 3. a | 8. a |
| 4. a | 9. a |
| 5. b | 10. c |

Check Your Understanding: Short Answer

1. They might be able to use them.
2. that his family would never know what happened to him
3. They might be able to use the broken glass as a knife.
4. an onion
5. He wanted to finally reach his goal, even if it was pointless.
6. Dr. Hawthorn was going to put leeches on Rebecca.
7. Hattie's husband was the butcher who sold bad meat to the Tennysons.
8. Stanley tells Zero to save his strength.
9. Zero liked that they slept outdoors and had nice blue uniforms.
10. Zero's stuffed giraffe was not real; he imagined it.

Deepen Your Understanding

Answers will vary.

VI. CHAPTERS 44–50***Build Your Vocabulary***

Wording and definitions may vary. Students may remember the definitions given in the Vocabulary Words to Know section of Focus Your Reading, or they may refine the definitions based on the context and the reading overall. Students' new sentences will vary.

Check Your Understanding: Multiple Choice

- | | |
|------|-------|
| 1. c | 6. b |
| 2. a | 7. a |
| 3. c | 8. c |
| 4. b | 9. b |
| 5. a | 10. c |

Check Your Understanding: Short Answer

1. He doesn't think Kate Barlow would have buried the loot any deeper.
2. It will take too much time, and the campers will be out there by then.
3. They have found and dug up the treasure for her.
4. The staff had been sleeping and didn't stop to get dressed.

5. They have onion blood.

6. The boys lifted the truck out of the hole.
7. Stanley's father pries the suitcase open in his workshop.
8. The jewels aren't as valuable as everyone had hoped.
9. A Super Bowl party is held at the Yelnats' house.
10. Hector's mother

Deepen Your Understanding

Answers will vary.

END-OF-BOOK TEST

- | | |
|-------|-------|
| 1. b | 11. c |
| 2. c | 12. b |
| 3. a | 13. c |
| 4. a | 14. b |
| 5. c | 15. a |
| 6. c | 16. a |
| 7. c | 17. c |
| 8. a | 18. a |
| 9. c | 19. c |
| 10. c | 20. b |